

at the pointed end. The kestrel eggs are typically coloured and marked with specks and spots or broad smears and smudges of burnt umber or dark rufous brown; two of them measure 40.8 x 31.7 and 41.0 x 31.9 mm. The measurements of four sets, each of four eggs, of this kestrel which I obtained from the Blayney Percival collection and which had been taken on the Athi Plains, in Kenya, range from 38.1–41.5 x 29.9–32.3 mm., and average 39.64 x 31.34 mm. Scarcely two of these sixteen eggs are alike, though all are typically kestrel. The Greater Kestrel normally utilises the old nests of tree-breeding raptors for its own eggs.

There seem to be no published records of a similar combined nest; also I have been unable to obtain any additional information on this interesting subject from local correspondents.

The eggs of the White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis* (Sharpe)

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Received 30th January, 1965

According to Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955) the eggs and nest of the White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis* are undescribed. In revising part of the collection of the British Museum (Natural History), two clutches of this species were discovered, one of which was taken together with the parent bird. The eggs had tentatively been assigned to this species or to *Pycnonotus layardi*, prior to the identification of the parent bird.

Both clutches were collected by L. M. Seth-Smith at Mpumu, Uganda in 1915. One was taken on 15th March (B. M. no. 1920.6.7.4–5) and given the set-mark 55. The accompanying note states—"2 eggs fresh. Nest a typical Bulbul's *P. layardi* shot close to nest but eggs not like those of *P. layardi*. No other bird seen near nest although I waited for a long time. In forest. Nest of the slung variety which I have seen in *layardi* before but not common." The eggs are long, elliptical oval, with a high gloss. They are a pinkish-beige colour with many fine grey markings towards the larger end giving this a general greyish appearance, and with a concentrated zone of grey markings wreathing the larger end just beyond its broadest part. They measure 24.7 x 15.9 and 23.4 x 15.6 mm.

The second clutch was taken on 25th March (B. M. no. 1920.6.7.12–13) and given the set-mark 56. The accompanying note states—"Slightly incubated. Believed to be the same as no. 55 as eggs are very similar and nest identical. Bird had to be shot at close quarters as nest was in thick forest—kept for identification. Nest 1ft. from ground, 150 yards from (nest) 55, probably same pair." The specimen referred to is in the museum collection (B. M. 1920.6.7.178) and is a female. The eggs are very glossy but more ovate than the previous clutch and a deeper buff in colour, the wreath of darker markings around the larger end of each appearing purplish, while in addition one shows some pale brown scrawlings sparsely distributed around the large end and along one side. They measure 21.3 x 15.2 and 21.7 x 15.4 mm. In view of the difference it seems unlikely that these would be successive clutches of the same pair.

Reference:

Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, C. H. B. 1955. *African Handbook of Birds*, series 1, Eastern and South Eastern Africa, vol. 2, London,